

I claim:

- 1 1. A method comprising the steps of:
 2 forming a multilayered structure having at least a top layer, a middle layer and a
 3 bottom layer adjacent to each other, where said middle layer has a thickness, d ;
 4 defining at least a first hole in said top layer and through said middle layer;
 5 defining at least a second hole in said bottom layer and through said middle
 6 layer, said first and second holes being offset from one another; and
 7 defining a channel between said first and second holes in said middle layer so
 8 that only objects having a size of d or smaller may traverse said multilayered structure
 9 through said first and second holes and said channel.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 where the step of forming a multilayered structure forms a
 2 top and bottom layer composed of material different from that composing said middle
 3 layer so that a selective etchant of said middle layer is used to define said channel.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 where the step of forming a multilayered structure forms a
 2 middle layer with a thickness, d , in the range of $1 - 5\text{nm}$.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 where the step of defining at least a first hole in said top
 2 layer and defining at least a second hole in said bottom layer defines a plurality of offset
 3 holes in said top and bottom layer.

1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of disposing a conductive
2 layer on said top and bottom layers and applying a signal to said conductive layer on
3 said top and bottom layers to trap charged organic molecules traversing said structure,
4 to vary filtration realized through said channel by means of channel restriction, or to
5 provide valving.

1 6. The method of claim 5 where said signal is a radiofrequency signal characterized
2 by at least one frequency and further comprising varying said at least one frequency of
3 said signal to selectively match specific organic molecules traversing said structure.

1 7. The method of claim 5 where said signal is a DC signal characterized by a
2 magnitude and further comprising varying said magnitude to correspondingly vary the
3 size of said channel and filtration provided thereby.

1 8. The method of claim 5 where said signal is a DC signal characterized by a
2 magnitude and further comprising varying said magnitude to open or close said
3 channel.

1 9. The method of claim 5 where defining at least said first and second hole
2 simultaneously defines said first and second hole through said conductive layer on said
3 top and bottom layers.

1 10. The method of claim 9 where defining at least said first and second hole
2 comprises using electron beam lithography to delineate said first and second hole and
3 further comprising imaging one of said top and bottom layers while lithographically
4 delineating said other one of said top and bottom layers.

1 11. An apparatus comprising:
2 a multilayered structure having at least a top layer, a middle layer and a bottom
3 layer adjacent to each other, where said middle layer has a thickness, d ;
4 at least a first hole in said top layer and through said middle layer;
5 at least a second hole in said bottom layer and through said middle layer, said
6 first and second holes being offset from one another; and
7 a channel between said first and second holes in said middle layer so that only
8 objects having a size of d or smaller may traverse said multilayered structure through
9 said first and second holes and said channel.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said top and bottom layer are composed of
2 material different from that composing said middle layer so that a selective etchant of
3 said middle layer is used to define said channel.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 11 where said multilayered structure forms a middle layer
2 with a thickness, d , in the range of 1 – 5nm.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising a plurality of offset holes in said top
2 and bottom layer.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising a conductive layer on said top and
2 bottom layers for the application of a signal to said conductive layer on said top and
3 bottom layers to trap charged organic molecules traversing said structure, to vary
4 filtration realized through said channel by means of channel restriction, or to provide
5 valving through said channel.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising a source of a variable
2 radiofrequency signal to selectively match specific organic molecules traversing said
3 structure.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising a source of a variable DC signal to
2 vary filtration realized through said channel by means of channel restriction, or to
3 provide valving through said channel.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 15 where said first and second hole are simultaneously
2 defined through said conductive layer on said top and bottom layers.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 18 where said first and second hole are delineated using
2 electron beam lithography and wherein one of said top and bottom layers can be
3 imaged while said other one of said top and bottom layers is lithographically delineated.

1 20. A nano-scale filter comprising:
2 a top layer;
3 a middle layer disposed adjacent to said top layer, where said middle layer has a
4 thickness, d ;
5 a bottom layer disposed adjacent to said middle layer;
6 a first plurality of holes defined in said top layer and through said middle layer;
7 a second plurality of holes defined in said bottom layer and through said middle
8 layer, said first and second plurality of holes being offset from one another; and
9 at least one nano-scale channel between said first and second plurality of holes
10 in said middle layer so that only objects having a size of d or smaller may traverse said
11 filter through said first and second plurality of holes and said channel.

1 21. The filter of claim 20 further comprising a corresponding plurality of nano-scale
2 channels, one of said plurality of nano-scale channels communicating one of said first
3 plurality of holes to one of said second plurality of holes.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 20 further comprising a first conductive layer disposed on
2 said top layer and a second conductive layer on said bottom layer, so that a signal

3 applied across said first and second conductive layers serves to selectively filter
4 molecules or particles.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said channel has a width of d or less.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein d is in the range of 1 to 5 nm.